



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: June 2, 2004

2004 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

ARCO PASS ALLOTMENT

SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

Dear Permittee:

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Arco Pass Allotment. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Arco Pass Allotment and information discussed during the meeting of March 7, 2004. Please review your Term Grazing Permit for grazing utilization, range improvement maintenance, and salting standards. Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependant on range readiness and when allowable use standards are met. The Forest Service may approve changes to the grazing rotation in consultation with the permittees to address range condition situations that may occur due to weather related circumstances.

Permitted Cattle Authorized

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Brand</u>
Harvey Walker	269	269	0		
Hale Ranches	104	104	0		
David Andreason	58	0	58	6/15-9/30	
Sunset Trust Org.	38	38	0		
Robert Spraker	<u>15</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15</u>	6/15-9/30	
Total	484	411	73		

<u>Grazing Unit Rotation</u>	<u>Estimated Days</u>	
Brier/Hurst/Horsethief Canyons	45	6/15-7/15
Seeding	60	7/16-9/30



Allowable Use Standard: End of season 4-inch stubble height on hydric sedges & grasses is required along the greenline of riparian areas. A patchy or uneven use pattern along the greenline will usually result in stubble height standard being met. While adequate regrowth may occur under average growing season conditions, the opposite may be true during below average conditions. Special attention should be made during drier weather conditions. It is recommended a stubble height trigger above 4 inches be used in drier conditions to plan cattle moves.

Riparian areas with greenlines dominated by Kentucky bluegrass and tufted hairgrass should also receive special attention to achieve end of season stubble height. Greenlines dominated by these plants have less bank stability than greenlines dominated by deep-rooted plants. Greenlines dominated by these plants are sometimes in a lower state of ecological condition and should be managed to increase the amount of stable hydric sedges, grasses, and shrubs where appropriate.

Other factors should be considered for planning cattle moves between units. These include prevention of stream bank trampling, increase in rate of stubble height removal, changes in grazing preference from grasses and grass-like plants to young willows and other shrubs, large groups of cattle congregating in fence corners, at gates, or riparian areas for long periods of time.

INFISH Grazing Module Implementation: We will continue to randomly select key areas for monitoring grazing utilization with permittee participation. Key areas are used to monitor representative riparian areas within a grazing unit. Key area monitoring establishes a record of utilization trend, a location for observation to plan cattle moves, a location to record whether end of season stubble height standards are met, a location to evaluate whether management impacts are effective or need to be modified.

Units Selected for Key Area INFISH Grazing Module Implementation 2003: Brier/Hurst

Cleaning Grazing Units: Livestock need to begin moving from a unit prior to the stubble height standard being met to ensure allowable use standards are met. This is especially important during drought conditions. In most cases 7 days should be adequate. Permittees should be prepared to assist range riders in checking that the unit cleaned stays clean. Range riders should keep permittees informed of problems cleaning grazed units. Bulls should be kept with the main herd or removed from the allotment when they disrupt herd management. Frequent back-riding indicates there is a herd management problem. It is also the permittee's responsibility to correct problems caused by drift from other units.

Fence & Water Improvements: Please refer to Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. Allotment boundary fences should be maintained prior to cattle entering the allotment; interior fences should also be maintained prior to cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements.

Weed Free Hay: In accordance with State Law, please ensure that range riders bring hay that is certified and tagged noxious weed free.

Actual Use Report: An Actual Use Report will be mailed to you shortly before cattle leave the allotment. This form is to be completed and returned to the Lost River Ranger District two weeks

after you have removed livestock from your allotment. The association President will need to provide a consolidated report with the numbers and dates when cattle entered the allotment, moved from unit to unit, when cattle were removed from the allotment. Each permittee will need to provide an individual report with dates when their cattle entered and left the allotment.

This information is used for the purpose of evaluating and analyzing: grazing allotment and grazing unit use, compliance with annual operating instructions, and planning next season's grazing management strategy

Applications for refunds/credits for unused portions of your allotment must be requested and filed separately. Please contact our office if you need an application for refund/credit.

Questions and assistance regarding these instructions should be directed to Holger Jensen at 588-2224.

Sincerely,

/s/ Carol Benkosky

CAROL BENKOSKY
District Ranger